

A Place to Call Home

Written by Christine Nguyen, Division of Services for People with Disabilities
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On September 25, five people in need of safe, affordable housing with accessibility features, moved into their own apartments thanks to a collaborative effort between Utah Food Bank Services, Housing Authority of the County of Salt Lake and Division of Services for People with Disabilities.

Utah Food Bank Services gifted the Housing Authority a six-plex in South Salt Lake. Utilizing funding from the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund the property has received upgrades and renovation making it an ideal place to call home. The units are dedicated to individuals receiving supportive services through the Division of Services for People with Disabilities.

I met with the tenants shortly after they moved in and they have now begun the exciting process of settling in and “getting to know their neighbors.” Boxes are unpacked, paperwork is complete, furnishings are in place, and new relationships are being formed.

A fun way to build community, a “Name the Six-Plex Contest” is being developed for the residents. They are already watching out for each other and meeting people in neighboring residences. Many of them enjoyed the help and support of family and friends during their move. They are thrilled to have a place of their own and are adding personal touches to each apartment turning them into home. It is important to each that they have a base on which to build their lives, attend school, work, and participate in their community.

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